

MAJOR DUTIES

Serves as First Mate aboard a Class IV diesel towboat engaged in towing, river inspection, and channel marking operations. Stands a regular watch, but is on call at all times. Supervises the work of deck crew. Duties require a U.S. Coast Guard inland mates license.

1. Stands a regular watch and supervises the deck crew engaged in making up and breaking up tows, general housekeeping, and various deck work as follows:
 - a. Fastens, lashes or otherwise secures floating plant with cable, rope, ratchets, etc., to ensure safe towing or mooring.
 - b. Checks tow en route, tightening, loosening and adjusting lashings as required.
 - c. Places, cleans and inspects running, search and mooring lights.
 - d. Inspects and de-waters bilge leakage. Repairs, when possible en route, or notifies Master of condition.
 - e. Operates deck equipment such as winches and capstans to secure tow, move or hoist heavy items.
 - f. Splices lines, makes slings and rigs, loads and unloads supplies; helps repair crews; and chips, paints, sweeps, and washes down decks and bulkheads.
 2. Personally signals Master or Pilot on watch or maintains radio contact during the making up and breaking up of tows. Notifies Master or Pilot when tow is secure and/or ready to get under way. Enforces safety regulations and instructs crew on both safe work procedures and work practices peculiar to floating plant. Conducts fire, lifeboat and man-overboard drills. Requisitions and insures needed supply of rope, paint, soap, tools, ratchets, safety equipment, etc.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGES

Applies knowledge of navigational rules and regulations as evidenced by possession of a U.S. Coast Guard inland mates license. Applies knowledge of towboat operations, sequence of work activities, the deck operations and maintenance requirements imposed. Applies knowledge of how such operational characteristics impact deck operation and maintenance requirements.

Applies knowledge of the operational characteristics and limitations of the deck equipment and machinery winches, deck equipment controls, etc. Applies knowledge of equipment lubrication and maintenance requirements. Applies knowledge of material, supplies and equipment necessary to support deck operation and of the procurement and supply procedures and requirements necessary to obtain such items to provide timely and effective support of towing operations.

RESPONSIBILITY

Works under the general supervision of the Master, who verbally lays out the work to be accomplished and spot-checks work in progress and/or after completion for compliance with instructions. Supervisor relies on incumbent to carry out assignments on own initiative in accordance with established practices.

PHYSICAL EFFORT

Work requires walking, bending, reaching, and standing for long periods. Moderate lifting is required in loading supplies.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed in the pilot house, on deck and in other locations of the vessel. Spends most of the time on the deck. Occasionally goes outside in all kinds of weather to attend to duties, being exposed to the elements and subject to slipping on wet decks. Danger of drowning is present in case of accident; therefore, life jackets are required at all times while on board. There is danger from traffic hazards, particularly in foggy weather and at night.

**FIRST MATE, TOWBOAT
XH-5784-11
EVALUATION STATEMENT**

1. REFERENCES:

- a. OPM, Handbook of Occupational Groups and Families, WG-5782 series, Ship Operating, August 2001
- b. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ladder Diagram, 1953

2. SERIES AND TITLE DETERMINATION:

Subject position serves as First Mate aboard a very large (over 110 feet in length) diesel towboat engaged in towing, river inspection, and channel marking operations. Stands a regular watch, but is on call at all times. Supervises the work of deck crew. Duties require a U.S. Coast Guard inland mates license. This work meets the series definition for the Riverboat Operating Series, WG-5784, which includes jobs involved in operating riverboats, towboats, with tows, self-propelled dredges and other similar craft, often larger than 55 meters (180 feet) in length engaged in transporting passengers and freight, moving non self-propelled vessels and floating plant, making hydrographic surveys, dredging and maintaining waterways, etc. The work includes steering the boat, standing watch, setting and maintaining speed and course, determining position using navigational aids, and coordinating activities of members of the crew. The work requires knowledge of river currents, stages, obstructions, navigation locks and dams, and the handling and operation of large vessels or tows on rivers. Position is descriptively titled First Mate, in keeping with prevailing maritime titling practices.

3. GRADE DETERMINATION:

Licensed floating plant positions are ranked based on private industry practices. The Mate is graded 5 levels below the Master. Since the Master of a 110 foot or greater towboat is graded at the XH-16 level, subject position is graded at the XH-11 level.

4. FINAL DETERMINATION: First Mate, Towboat, XH-5784-11.

NOTES ON USING THIS BENCHMARK

The grade of the First Mate is dependent on the grade of the Master. Refer to the notes on the Master, Towboat, Benchmark No. C-01. Once the grade of the Master is determined, the First Mate is graded five levels below the Master. If the Master is graded lower than the XH-16 level, the grade of the Mate is graded lower accordingly.